



Feds fund mental health crisis teams to stand in for police

WASHINGTON (AP) — When police respond to a person gripped by a mental health or drug crisis, the encounter can have tragic results. Now a government insurance program will help communities set up an alternative: mobile teams with mental health practitioners trained in de-escalating such potentially volatile situations. The effort to reinvent policing after the death of George Floyd in police custody is getting an assist through Medicaid, the federal-state health insurance program for low-income people and the largest payer for mental health treatment. President Joe Biden's recent coronavirus relief bill calls for an estimated \$1 billion over

10 years for states that set up mobile crisis teams, currently locally operated in a handful of places. Many 911 calls are due to a person experiencing a mental health or substance abuse crisis. Sometimes, like with Daniel Prude in Rochester, New York, the consequences are shocking. The 41-year-old Black man died after police placed a spit hood over his head and held him to the pavement for about two minutes on a cold night in 2020 until he stopped breathing. He had run naked from his brother's house after being released from a hospital following a mental health arrest. A grand jury voted down charges against the officers.

Continued on next page



In this Sept. 2020 photo, Emergency Medical Technician (EMT) Christian Hawks with CAHOOTS, a mental health crisis intervention program, prepares for an afternoon shift in Eugene, Oregon.

Associated Press

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In this Sept. 2020 photo, Crisis Worker Emergency Medical Technician (EMT), Sara Stroo, left, and Crisis Worker Laurel Lisovskis with CAHOOTS, a mental health crisis intervention program, take a moment before heading out on an evening shift in Eugene, Ore. **Associated Press**

Continued from Front

Dispatching teams of paramedics and behavioral health practitioners would take mental health crisis calls out of the hands of uniformed and armed officers, whose mere arrival may ratchet up tensions. In Eugene, Oregon, such a strategy has been in place more than 30 years, with solid backing from police. The concept "fits nicely with what we are trying to do around police reform," Eugene Police Chief Chris Skinner said. The logic works "like a simple math problem," he adds.

"If I can rely on a mechanism that matches the right response to the need, it means I don't have to put

my officers in these circumstances," Skinner explained. "By sending the right resources I can make the assumption that there are going to be fewer times when officers are in situations that can turn violent. It actually de-conflicts, reducing the need for use of force."

Eugene is a medium-size city about 100 miles (160 kilometers) south of Portland, known for its educational institutions. The program there is called Crisis Assistance Helping Out On The Streets, or CAHOOTS, and is run by the White Bird Clinic. CAHOOTS is part of the local 911 emergency response system but operates independently of the police, although there's co-

ordination. Crisis teams are not sent on calls involving violent situations.

"We don't look like law enforcement," White Bird veteran Tim Black said. "We drive a big white cargo van. Our responders wear a T-shirt or a hoodie with a logo. We don't have handcuffs or pepper spray, and the way we start to interact sends a message that we are not the police and this is going to be a far safer and voluntary interaction." CAHOOTS teams handled 24,000 calls in the local area in 2019, and Black said the vast majority would have otherwise fallen to police. Many involve homeless people. The teams work to resolve the situation that

prompted the call and to connect the person involved to ongoing help and support.

At least 14 cities around the country are interested in versions of that model, said Simone Brody, executive director of What Works Cities, a New York-based nonprofit that tries to promote change through effective use of data. "It's really exciting to see the federal government support this model," Brody said. "I am hopeful that three years from now we will have multiple models and ideally some data that shows this has actually saved people's lives." Portland, Oregon, launched its own crisis teams in February and the program has already expanded to serve more areas of the community.

About 1,000 people a year are shot dead by police, according to an analysis by the Treatment Advocacy Center, which examined several publicly available estimates. Severe mental

illness is a factor in at least 25% of such shootings, it estimated. The center advocates for improved mental health care.

Mobile crisis teams found their way into the COVID-19 relief bill through the efforts of Oregon Democratic Sen. Ron Wyden, who chairs the Finance Committee, which oversees Medicaid.

"Too often law enforcement is asked to respond to situations that they are not trained to handle," Wyden said. "On the streets in challenging times, too often the result is violence, even fatal violence, particularly for Black Americans."

Wyden's legislation includes \$15 million in planning grants to help states get going. The Congressional Budget Office estimates the program could take a couple of years to fully implement. The \$1 billion will be available to states for five years, beginning next April. Wyden said it's a "down payment" on what he hopes will become a permanent part of Medicaid.

The idea may be well-timed, said Medicaid expert MaryBeth Musumeci, of the nonpartisan Kaiser Family Foundation. The coronavirus pandemic has worsened society's pervasive mental health and substance abuse problems. At the same time, protests over police shootings of Black people have created an appetite for anything that could break the cycle. "All of those things coming together are putting increased focus on the need for further developing effective behavioral health treatment models," Musumeci said.

In Rhode Island, nurse turned malpractice lawyer Laura Harrington is helping coordinate a grassroots campaign to incorporate crisis teams into the state's 911 system. She said she's been surprised at the level of interest. "I don't want to get into blaming," Harrington said. "We could blame social services. We could blame people who don't take their medications. We could blame the police. I want to move forward and solve problems." □



Jenner adds celebrity, questions to California governor race

By MICHAEL R. BLOOD

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Republican Caitlyn Jenner said Friday she will run for governor of California, injecting a jolt of celebrity into an emerging campaign that threatens to oust Democratic Gov. Gavin Newsom from office.

Jenner — an Olympic hero, reality TV personality and transgender rights activist — said in statement posted on Twitter and on an accompanying website that she has filed initial paperwork to run for the post.

Newsom, a first-term Democrat, is facing a likely recall election this year, though officials are still reviewing petition signatures required to qualify the proposal for the ballot. Several other Republicans also have announced plans to run.

The race had failed to attract a nationally recognized contender before the entrance of 71-year-old Jenner, who is widely known from shows "Keeping Up with the Kardashians" and the spin-off "I Am Cait."

However, she brings an abundance of questions about her ability to potentially lead the nation's most populous state at a time of crisis and has faced speculation that she's entering politics to steer attention to her entertainment career. She is untested as a candidate and little is known about her positions on critical issues facing the state, from the coronavirus pandemic to managing the economy. She has ties to former President Donald Trump, who remains broadly unpopular in California outside his GOP base, as well as his former political operatives.

Jenner credits herself with advancing the movement for equality, but the LGBTQ advocacy group Equality California said it would oppose her candidacy, citing her ties to Trump and Republicans who have sought to undercut transgender rights.

Still, with her name recognition and ability to attract publicity, she could overshadow other GOP con-



Caitlyn Jenner attends the Comedy Central Roast of Alec Baldwin in Beverly Hills, Calif. on Sept. 7, 2019.

Associated Press

tenders, including former San Diego Mayor Kevin Faulconer, former U.S. Rep. Doug Ose and businessman John Cox, who lost to Newsom in the 2018 governor's race.

Hours after Jenner announced she would run, Faulconer took a lightly veiled swipe at her lack of experience in government. "I think I'm uniquely positioned in terms of somebody who has won elections and knows how to get results," he told reporters. In a statement, Jenner called herself an outsider and "a proven winner" and the only candidate "who can put an end to Gavin Newsom's disastrous time as governor."

"I'm in," she wrote on her website. "For the past decade, we have seen the glimmer of the Golden State reduced by one-party rule that places politics over progress and special interests over people. Sacramento needs an honest leader with a clear vision."

It was notable that her announcement did not include a video, which is commonplace in political campaign kickoffs. Instead, in her written statement, she referred only vaguely to cutting taxes, a "roadmap back to prosper-

ity" and taking on special interests.

Her campaign did not respond to a request for an on-camera interview. She described herself as "economically conservative, socially progressive" in a People magazine interview last year.

Her run would come nearly two decades after the ascendancy of Arnold Schwarzenegger, another Republican who used his Hollywood fame as a springboard to California's highest office in a 2003 recall election.

County election officials are required to submit their final signature tallies to the state no later than next Thursday.

If the recall qualifies for the ballot, as expected, voters would be asked two questions: first, whether Newsom should be removed from office. The second would be a list of replacement candidates to choose from, if more than 50% of voters support removing Newsom from office.

The effort largely has been fueled by criticism of Newsom's handling of the pandemic, which shuttered schools and closed thousands of businesses.

If the recall qualifies, Newsom would be forced to

fend off rivals in the midst of a pandemic that has cost the state millions of jobs, cored government budgets and upended life for nearly 40 million residents. He's also been hit by the fallout from a multibillion-dollar fraud scandal at the state unemployment agency while weathering a public shaming for dining out with friends and lobbyists at an exclusive San Francisco Bay Area restaurant last fall, while telling residents to stay home for safety.

However, recent polling has suggested Newsom would hold his seat, and the sour public mood could shift as more schools and businesses reopen. California also is likely to be the recipient of billions of dollars of federal recovery funds, which Newsom will dispense and could use to his political advantage.

In a typical California gubernatorial election, Jenner, as a Republican, would face long odds in the state dominated by Democrats. But with dozens of candidates expected to join the ballot in a likely recall election, the threshold to win would be far lower with the vote divided among many contenders. Some analysts have projected that a winning candidate might

need as little as 20% of the vote to top a large field.

Anne Dunsmore, a consultant for Rescue California, one of the political committees backing the recall, said she recently spoke to Jenner and views her as a serious candidate.

"I don't think she's going to use it to further her own purpose, but rather bring awareness to what's happening here," Dunsmore said.

Jenner made headlines in recent years with her ties to Trump, who lost to Joe Biden in the state in November by over 5 million votes.

Jenner supported Trump in 2016 but later criticized his administration's reversal of a directive on transgender access to public school bathrooms. She also criticized Trump after he said transgender people would not be allowed to serve in the U.S. military.

In a statement, Newsom campaign spokesman Dan Newman said, "We always knew the ... recall would be a ludicrous circus full of Trump supporters."

The team advising Jenner has included Trump's former campaign manager, Brad Parscale, and GOP fundraiser Caroline Wren, who worked for Trump's campaign.

Jenner, who won the decathlon in the 1976 Summer Olympics, also could face questions about a 2015 fatal crash in which she rear-ended two cars. A 69-year-old woman was killed when her car was pushed into the path of an oncoming Hummer. □

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Calls mount for video release in fatal shooting by deputies

By **ALLEN G. BREED and JONATHAN DREW**

ELIZABETH CITY, N.C. (AP) —

Leaders of a North Carolina city where a Black man was shot and killed by deputies serving search and drug-related warrants planned Friday to vote on a resolution urging a court to release body camera video of the shooting.

The calls for transparency come amid signs, included emergency scanner traffic, that Andrew Brown Jr. was shot in the back and killed as he was trying to drive away.

Pasquotank County Sheriff Tommy Wooten II has said that at least one of the deputies serving the warrants on the day of Wednesday's shooting was wearing a body camera and that it was activated. A notice posted by the City Council in Elizabeth City said it intended to have the city attorney petition a local court to make the video public.

The council's measure wouldn't be binding on the Pasquotank County Sheriff's Office, which is a separate entity from city government. In North Carolina, a judge must generally sign off on release of body camera footage, but the



Kirk Rivers leads a group of demonstrators as they block Ehringhaus Street, a main retail avenue in Elizabeth City, N.C., Friday, April 23, 2021, as they demand after a fatal shooting that body camera video be released by the Pasquotank Sheriff's office.

Associated Press

law says anyone can file a petition in court seeking its release.

The sheriff has given no timetable for release of the video, which has also been urged by protesters who have taken to the streets each night since Brown was shot.

White House press secretary Jen Psaki said Friday that President Joe Biden is aware of Brown's death, but that Biden would likely leave decisions over the

timetable for releasing body camera footage to local authorities.

"Obviously, the loss of life is a tragedy and obviously we're thinking of the family members and the community," Psaki said at her daily briefing.

Wooten has said deputies from his department including a tactical team were attempting to serve search and drug-related warrants when he was shot, but offered few other de-

tails. Nearby Dare County had issued two arrest warrants for Brown on drug-related charges including possession with intent to sell cocaine. Brown, 42, had a criminal history dating back to the 1990s, including past drug convictions.

Recordings of scanner traffic compiled by broadcastify.com from the morning of the shooting include emergency personnel indicating that Brown was shot in the back. An eyewitness

has said that deputies fired shots at Brown as he tried to drive away, and a car authorities removed from the scene appeared to have multiple bullet holes and its back windshield shattered. "We are responding. Law enforcement on scene advises shots fired, need EMS," says one woman, who refers to the address where the warrant was served.

"EMS has got one male 42 years of age, gunshot to the back. We do have viable pulse at this time," said a male voice. Someone then said that first responders were performing resuscitation efforts.

The sheriff, district attorney and state medical examiner didn't immediately respond to emails Friday asking for comment on the scanner traffic. The SBI declined to comment.

Wooten said multiple deputies involved in the shooting have been placed on administrative leave pending a probe by the State Bureau of Investigation. He didn't specify how many deputies were involved.

During demonstrations Thursday night, protesters questioned why deputies opened fire in a residential area down the street from an elementary school. □

Detectives: DNA solves 1985 slaying, rape of dementia victim



This Thursday, April 22, 2021, booking photo provided by the Palm Beach County Sheriff's Office shows Richard Lange, who was arrested for the 1985 kidnapping, rape and murder of a 78-year-old woman with dementia.

Associated Press

By **TERRY SPENCER**
Associated Press
FORT LAUDERDALE, Fla.

(AP) — A DNA test has led to the arrest of a suspect in the April 1985 slaying, rape and kidnapping of a 78-year-old woman who had dementia and had wandered from her home. The Palm Beach County Sheriff's Office announced Friday that it had arrested Richard C. Lange, 61, on first-degree murder, kidnapping and sexual assault charges.

The office did not release the victim's name, but 1985 news stories identify her as Mildred Matheny, who was found unconscious, nude and beaten along a remote dirt road, about 25 miles from where she had disappeared seven hours earlier. She died 11 days later.

State and county records show Lange has a lengthy criminal record, including convictions in 1983 and 1993 for aggravated assault, receiving probation each time. He also was convicted of weapons charges in 2006 and 2012, receiving short jail sentences.

In its press release, the sheriff's office says its homicide cold case unit submitted DNA from the killing to the state database last month and Lange came up as a match. In 1985, Lange was 25 and living in Palm Beach County, records show.

Detectives received a warrant to obtain saliva from Lange, who was tested Thursday at his Boynton Beach home, about 10

miles from where Matheny was abducted. His DNA again matched the sample and he was arrested, the sheriff's office said. He denied any connection to the killing. A judge Friday ordered him held without bond.

Matheny was a widow who suffered from dementia, likely Alzheimer's disease, according to a 1985 story in the Palm Beach Post. She had recently moved from Arkansas to live with her sister in Lake Worth, Florida, and was not allowed outside alone because of fears she would wander away.

But because of some family confusion, Matheny got outside on the afternoon of April 27, 1985. Neigh-

bors had seen her walking down the street in her pajamas, which were found near her when she was discovered by a passerby hours later in Jupiter, Florida.

A sheriff's office video released last year seeking information about the slaying said Matheny may have gotten into a car with a young man outside a fast-food restaurant. Witnesses told investigators the man told them he was her neighbor and would drive her home.

"It's pretty bad when a grandmother goes outside for a walk and winds up knocked out on some dirt road," Lake Worth police Lt. Marty Kerner said in 1985. □

Imprisoned Putin foe Navalny to end his hunger strike

By DARIA LITVINOVA

Associated Press

MOSCOW (AP) — Imprisoned opposition leader Alexei Navalny said Friday he is ending his hunger strike after getting medical attention and being warned by his doctors that continuing it would put his life at risk.

In a message posted to his Instagram account, Navalny said he will continue to demand a visit from his doctor to address numbness in his legs and arms — his main demand. But he said he would halt the strike on its 24th day after having been examined by doctors who were not affiliated with the prison, something he called “a huge progress.” He also acknowledged the mass pro-Navalny protests across Russia on Wednesday and the support he received from around the globe. “Thanks to the huge support of good people across the country and around the world, we have made huge progress,” Navalny said in his message from behind bars. “Two months ago, my requests for medical help were prompting smirks. I wasn’t given any medications. ... Thanks to you, now I have been examined by a panel of civilian doctors twice.”



In this Feb. 16, 2021, file photo taken from footage provided by the Babuskinsky District Court, Russian opposition leader Alexei Navalny gestures during a court hearing in Moscow, Russia.

Associated Press

Another reason he was ending the hunger strike was that some of his supporters were refusing to eat in a show of solidarity with him, Navalny said.

“Tears flowed from my eyes when I read that. God, I’m not even acquainted with these people, and they do this for me. Friends, my heart is full of love and gratitude for you, but I don’t want anyone physically suffering because of me,” said the 44-year-old politician, who is President Vladimir Putin’s most prominent critic.

He said he would start “coming out of the hunger strike” on Friday and the process of ending it will take 24 days.

Navalny was arrested in January upon his return from Germany, where he had spent five months recovering from a poisoning with the nerve agent that he blames on the Kremlin accusations that Russian officials reject.

He was promptly put on trial for violating terms of a suspended sentence stemming from a 2014 embezzlement conviction, which he says was politically motivated. He was ordered to serve 2½ years in prison.

Navalny began the hunger strike March 31, after developing severe pain in his back and loss of sensation in his legs. Prison officials have said he was getting all the medical help he needs, but Navalny insisted he effectively received no treatment.

Navalny’s doctors said Saturday they feared he was close to dying because his test results showed sharply

elevated levels of potassium, which can bring on cardiac arrest, and heightened creatinine levels that indicated impaired kidneys.

He was transferred Sunday from a penal colony east of Moscow to the hospital ward of another prison in Vladimir, a city 180 kilometers (110 miles) east of the capital.

The day after mass protests demanding his freedom swept across Russia, a team of his doctors released a letter urging him to end the hunger strike.

The letter revealed that Navalny was taken to a regular hospital Tuesday in Vladimir, where he underwent tests and was examined by specialists “in accordance” with requests from his doctors. It said they were given the results of those tests through Navalny’s lawyers and family on Thursday.

The doctors said they would continue to insist on access to Navalny but also urged him “to immediately stop the hunger strike in order to save life and health,” saying that they considered being examined by “civilian” doctors from outside the prison and undergoing “objective tests” enough to end the strike. □

Norwegian climber 1st to test positive on Mount Everest

By BINAJ GURBACHARYA

Associated Press

KATHMANDU, Nepal (AP) — The coronavirus has conquered the world’s highest mountain.

A Norwegian climber became the first to be tested for COVID-19 in Mount Everest base camp and was flown by helicopter to Kathmandu, where he was hospitalized.

Erlend Ness told The Associated Press in a message Friday that he tested positive on April 15. He said another test on Thursday was negative and he was now staying with a local family in Nepal.

An ace mountain guide, Austrian Lukas Furtenbach,



Lukas Furtenbach, an ace mountain guide speaks during an interview with Associated Press in Kathmandu, Nepal, Friday, April 23, 2021.

Associated Press

warned that the virus could spread among the hundreds of other climbers, guides and helpers who are now camped on

the base of Everest if all of them are not checked immediately and safety measures are taken.

Any outbreak could pre-

maturely end the climbing season, just ahead of a window of good weather in May, he said.

“We would need now most urgently mass testing in base camp, with everyone tested and every team being isolated, no contact between teams,” said Furtenbach. “That needs to be done now, otherwise it is too late.”

Furtenbach, leading a team of 18 climbers to Mount Everest and its sister peak Mount Lhotse, said there could be more than just one case on the mountain as the Norwegian had lived with several others for weeks.

A Nepalese mountaineer-

ing official denied there were any active cases on the mountains at the moment.

Mira Acharya, director at the Department of Mountaineering, said she had no official information about the COVID-19 cases and only reports of illnesses like pneumonia and altitude sickness. Mountaineering was closed last year due to the pandemic and climbers returned to Everest this year for the first time since May 2019.

The popular spring climbing season in Nepal, which has eight of the highest peaks in the world, began in March and ends in May. □

Israeli police arrest dozens in night of chaos in Jerusalem

By JOSEPH KRAUSS

Associated Press

JERUSALEM (AP) — Israeli police say 44 people were arrested and 20 officers were wounded in a night of chaos in Jerusalem, where security forces separately clashed with Palestinians angry about Ramadan restrictions and Jewish extremists who held an anti-Arab march nearby.

Tensions have spiked in recent days in Jerusalem, which has long been a flashpoint in the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, and is home to holy sites sacred to Jews, Christians and Muslims. Residents braced for possible further unrest as police stepped up security and the U.S. Embassy appealed for calm.

There were concerns the violence could reignite following Friday prayers at a major holy site in Jerusalem, but thousands of worshippers dispersed peacefully after Muslim religious leaders called for restraint. The Islamic militant group Hamas meanwhile staged demonstrations across Gaza reiterating its support for armed struggle.

Palestinians have clashed with Israeli police on a nightly basis since the start



Israeli border police detain an Israeli youth as members of "Lahava", a Jewish extremist group, as they try approach to Damascus Gate to protest amid heightened tensions in the city, just outside Jerusalem's Old City, Thursday, April. 22, 2021.

of the Muslim holy month of Ramadan. The tensions began when police placed barricades outside the Old City's Damascus Gate, where Muslims traditionally gather to enjoy the evening after the daytime fast. Late Thursday, hundreds of Palestinians hurled stones and bottles at police, who fired a water cannon and stun grenades to disperse them. Dozens of Palestinians were wounded in the

melee.

Meanwhile, a far-right Jewish group known as Lahava led a march of hundreds of protesters chanting "Arabs get out!" toward the Damascus Gate. The show of force came in response to videos circulated on TikTok showing Palestinians slapping religious Jews at random. Other videos made in response to them appear to show Jews assaulting Arabs. Police used metal bar-

ricades to halt the far-right protesters a few hundred meters (yards) from Damascus Gate. Later, they used water cannon, stun grenades and mounted police to push them back toward mostly Jewish west Jerusalem. Videos circulated online showed smaller clashes and fires elsewhere in the city. One video showed what appeared to be a group of Palestinians beating an ultra-Orthodox

Jew near Damascus Gate. They could be seen punching, kicking and throwing him to the ground before police chased them off.

The police statement did not specify whether those arrested were Palestinian or Jewish and did not refer to any specific instances of violence. The police did not immediately respond to a request for more details.

Israel captured east Jerusalem in the 1967 war and annexed it in a move not recognized by most of the international community. The Palestinians want east Jerusalem to be the capital of their future state. Its fate has been one of the most divisive issues in the peace process, which ground to a halt more than a decade ago.

The U.S. Embassy said it was "deeply concerned" about the violence in recent days. "We hope all responsible voices will promote an end to incitement, a return to calm, and respect for the safety and dignity of everyone in Jerusalem," it said in a statement. Tens of thousands of Palestinians attended weekly prayers at the Al-Aqsa mosque compound in Jerusalem's Old City on Friday. □

Associated Press

Protest in Yangon ahead of regional summit on Myanmar crisis

YANGON, Myanmar (AP)

— Protesters against Myanmar's military coup returned Friday to the streets of downtown Yangon, defiantly chanting their op-

position to the army's seizure of power as the junta chief prepared to attend a meeting of Southeast Asian leaders on the country's crisis. Such open dem-

onstrations in the center of Myanmar's largest city all but stopped weeks ago, as the deadly crackdown on dissent by the security forces made it too dangerous. Yangon is where the first major demonstrations were held against the February coup that ousted the elected government of Aung San Suu Kyi.

The protests launched a nationwide Civil Disobedience Movement that even the use of lethal force has failed to cow. Daily crackdowns by police and soldiers have killed more than 700 protesters and bystanders nationwide, according to several independent tallies.

About 150 protesters marched down the wide

boulevards of Yangon's Pabedan neighborhood with their hands raised in the three-fingered salute adopted by the opponents of military rule.

"Let's roar till the whole city can hear out voices!" the group's leader shouted.

They quickly scattered when police vehicles appeared nearby.

Leaders of the 10-member Association of Southeast Asian Nations will discuss the Myanmar crisis on Saturday in Indonesia's capital, Jakarta, with coup leader Senior Gen. Min Aung Hlaing set to attend in person.

The invitation to the junta chief has angered the coup's opponents, including a parallel National Uni-

ty Government created by ousted elected lawmakers, who argue his attendance legitimizes his power grab. The NUG was not invited to take part. The ASEAN leaders may seek to stop the security forces' violent suppression of the protests. They may also suggest an ASEAN-led humanitarian mission and a roadmap to dialogue between Myanmar's military rulers and their opponents.

There were other protests around Myanmar on Friday, including in Launglone township in southern Myanmar, where demonstrators came out in force to show their support for the National Unity Government. □



Anti-coup protesters flash the three-finger sign of defiance during the demonstration against the military coup in Yangon, Myanmar, on Friday, April 23, 2021.

Associated Press

Colombia police, military raid illegal gold mining operation

By FERNANDO VERGARA,
MARKO ALVAREZ and AS-
TRID SUÁREZ

MAGUI PAYAN, Colombia (AP) — From the air, the illegal gold mines look like wounds in the dense jungle of southern Colombia scars of red, gray and brown dirt surrounding toxic ponds. The sound of the police and military choppers lunging in over the hills sends most of the miners below fleeing into the foliage, with only a few staying behind to try to confront the police and soldiers leaping from the helicopters.

They're quickly subdued with tear gas and the authorities began setting fire to the heavy equipment used to extract gold.

The mine is located in the municipality of Magui Payan, a remote zone of southern Colombia where there's no piped water and communications links are tenuous.

One woman about 40 years old shouts at the soldiers and a handful of journalists accompanying them: "If the state doesn't let small



The land is deforested at an illegal gold mining operation where National Police and soldiers work to destroy it as part of the Armed Forces' "Operation Guamuez III" in Magui Payan, Colombia, Tuesday, April 20, 2021.

miners work, I can't feed my children because the state gives me nothing."

The rate of extreme poverty tops 80% in the region, according to Mayor Alejandro Juvenal Quiñones.

"We are surviving by work and the grace of the Holy Spirit," he told The Associated Press.

There's little piety among those running the mines that are the main source of income. They are controlled or at least extorted by organized crime gangs, in this case rival groups of current or former guerrillas from the still-active National Liberation Front and a breakaway faction of the

demobilized Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia, Police Lt. Col. Pedro Pablo Astaiza, who led this month's raid, said armed groups demand a 10% cut of everything produced by each excavating machine. He said the operation immobilized six excavators worth some \$330,000 al-

together, machinery that can produce about 6 kilograms (13 pounds) of gold a month.

But he said that six months from now, the miners may have repaired the machines and set them back to work.

The government says it has raided 9,235 illegal mines since the start of 2019, arrested 3,300 people and destroyed or inactivated 450 dredging machines.

"We are not talking about basic economies, about common criminals," said Gen. Jesús Alejandro Barrera Peña, director of rural security for the national police. "It is important to be clear that the communities aren't part of the illegal organizations; they are used as tools."

Illegal mines like the one in Magui Payan are more the rule than the exception in Colombia and across much of Latin America, where government forces often have difficulty enforcing laws in remote rural areas where criminals have set up shop. □

Associated Press

Mexico's drought reaches critical levels as lakes dry up

By FERNANDO LLANO
Associated Press

MEXICO CITY (AP) — Drought conditions now cover 85% of Mexico, and residents of the nation's central region said Thurs-

day that lakes and reservoirs are simply drying up, including the country's second-largest body of fresh water.

The mayor of Mexico City said the drought was the

worst in 30 years, and the problem can be seen at the reservoirs that store water from other states to supply the capital.

Some of them, like the Villa Victoria reservoir west of the capital, are at one-third of their normal capacity, with a month and a half to go before any significant rain is expected.

Isaías Salgado, 60, was trying to fill his water tank truck at Villa Victoria, a task that normally takes him just half an hour. On Thursday he estimated it was taking 3 1/2 hours to pump water into his 10,000-liter tanker.

"The reservoir is drying up," said Salgado. "If they keep pumping water out, by May it will be completely dry, and the fish will die." □



Cracked earth lines the banks of the Villa Victoria Dam, the main water supply for Mexico City residents, on the outskirts of Toluca, Mexico, Thursday, April 22, 2021.

Associated Press



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LOCAL



First award of Royal Designation in the Caribbean part of the Kingdom

ORANJESTAD - His Majesty King Willem-Alexander has granted the right to use the Royal Designation to the Aruban company Aruba Aloe Balm NV.

It is the first time since the introduction of the Royal Designation by King William I in 1815 that the designation has been awarded to an organization in the Caribbean part of the Kingdom. On April 22, 2021, the Governor of Aruba, His Excellency Alfonso Boekhoudt, handed over the

Certificate and the Royal Decree belonging to the predicate to the owners of Aruba Aloe Balm NV. The Royal Designation is an award that can be awarded to associations, foundations, institutions or large companies. It means that the organization may add the Royal Designation to the name and include the Royal Crown in the logo. It symbolizes the King's respect, appreciation and trust towards the recipient. The criteria for granting the Royal Designation are the

same in the Caribbean part of the Kingdom as in the Netherlands. For example, the organization must be of national significance and exist for 100 years or more. The official presentation of the Certificate and the Royal Decree took place in the Ballroom of the Hilton Aruba Caribbean. After a speech by the Governor, the Certificate and the Order were unveiled and received by the owners of Aruba Aloe. The Provisions regarding the Royal Designation, which include the

obligations associated with the right to use the designation, were subsequently signed by two directors of Aruba Aloe, Remko van der Veldt and Jacobus Veel. Louis A. Posner (shareholder) and Remko van der Veldt have thanked the Governor of Aruba, as representative of the King, for granting the right to use the Royal Designation. In their speech it was also told about the origin of Aruba Aloe, It is a great honor for Aruba that an Aruban company,



the first in the Caribbean part of the Kingdom, has been granted the right to use the Royal Designation. The Governor of Aruba congratulates Aruba Aloe Balm NV with this special award. □



Prohibited by law:

Tourist leaving the island with seashells, white sand and corals

ORANJESTAD — For the last months the customs department at the airport intercepted many tourists leaving the island with seashells, white sand and corals as souvenirs.

Conform the international treaty of CITES and our local law which protects our Flora & Fauna, it is completely prohibited to take any seashell, sand and coral outside of Aruba, this in order to protect our environment. The high amount of seashell, sand and corals confiscated is very strange and it is suspected that our own locals are the once selling these to the tourists, which is unacceptable. Upon confiscation at the airport the tourist also faces a fine that they have to pay before leaving. This is surely not a pleasant experience for the tourist. This also leads to a negative reaction which can put our tourism in a negative light. Let's all give nature the respect it deserves by protecting our environment.

Stop collecting seashells, white sand and corals from our shores and stop sell-

ing these to our tourist. We want our future generations and visitors to enjoy

the beauty of our beaches, shells and corals. Let's all protect what is ours! □



Seashells belong by the seashore not in your suitcase



Collecting seashells, coral, and beach sand to take home may seem like an innocent token of your stay on the island, but be aware that it is against the law in Aruba; these items will be confiscated by customs and a fine will be imposed.

Help us sustain the delicate ecosystem of our coastlines and beaches by leaving all shells, sand, and coral in place.




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Aruba Election 2021

ORANJESTAD — Aruba is due to hold general elections on June 25, 2021. Voters will elect all 21 members of the Estates (Staten), Aruba's unicameral parliament. The election should have taken place in September of 2021, but due to the resignation of the government on March 31st, 2021, before its legal four-year term, a new date had been stipulated according to the regulations as per Aruba's Constitution.

Aruba elects on national level a legislature. The Estates (Staten) have 21 members, elected for a four-year term by Open list Party-list proportional representation, meaning that voters have at least some influence on the order in which a party's candidates are elected. Seats are distributed between parties that have gained at least one full quota (1/21, or approximately 4.76% of the vote) using the Hagenbach-Bischoff system (a variant of the D'Hondt method). Before ob-

taining the status as land/country in the Kingdom of the Netherlands, Aruba participated in elections for its Island Council and for the Aruba constituency of the parliament of the Netherlands Antilles.

Aruba is a constituent country of the Kingdom of the Netherlands. It has full autonomy over internal affairs, while the Dutch government handles foreign and defense policy. Following Aruba's 2017 elections, the governing coalition is led by the social democratic People's Electoral Movement (MEP) party together with political parties POR and RED. The main opposition is the center-right Aruban People's Party (AVP), which holds nine of the 21 seats in the Estates.

Candidate lists

Submission of the candidate lists of political parties will take place on May 7, 2021, between 9 a.m. and 4 p.m. Only the authorized representative and 1 candidate or party leader on the list are allowed to be



present at the personal submission that will take place at the townhall in Oranjestad. Party lists may contain up to 29 candidates. Qualified electors must be 18 years and older

Color by parties

The following colors for the color print of the lists of candidates on the ballot paper can be used by political parties in the elections of 25 June 2021. These colors are: brown, light blue, dark blue, yellow, green, light gray, dark gray, orange, light orange, red, light pink, magenta, light purple, dark purple, khaki, white, olive green.

Voter Requirements

Voters must be residents of Aruba of at least 18 years of age with Dutch citizenship.

Electoral Debate

The Chamber of Commerce in partnership with the University of Aruba will be organizing 2 debates, which will take place on June 3rd and June 17th, 2021. Leaders of all the participating political parties will be invited to the debates. Topics such as economy, public

finance, labor, health, tourism, social affairs, education and justice will be discussed. Each party will be able to bring its plan of action, proposals and solutions based on challenges and opportunities for Aruba.

Campaign

In Aruba it is a custom to have candidates going to visit the people at their houses or holding informative sections at different areas, but now due to the Covid-19 crisis these visits and social gatherings are restricted. The candidates now are forced to come with innovative ways to communicate with their people. Most of them have their own social media page or programs where they try to connect to as many people as possible to get their word out. Also, most parties are recycling old campaign material and distribute these to their followers.

On June 25, 2021 we will find out if we will have a one party or a coalition once again to run our island for the next four-year term. □

4.1 Results of elections to Parliament

	2009	2013	2017
Number of persons with voting right	64,602	68,758	70,750
Number of persons who did vote	55,750	58,350	59,430
% of turn-out ¹	86.3	84.9	84
Valid votes	55,121	57,794	58,652
Invalid votes	629	556	751
Abstentions	8,852	10,408	11,347
Quota	2,624	2,752	2,792

Source: Population Registry Office

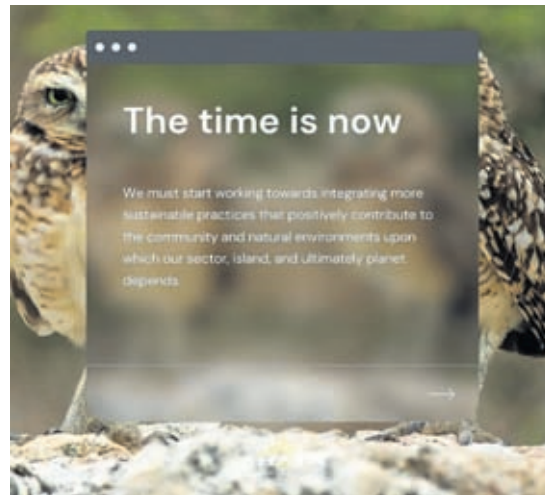
AHATA honors Earth Day by inspiring its members to commit to sustainable practices



ORANJESTAD – To commemorate Earth Day AHATA is distributing an Environmental Best Practices guide to its 123 member companies, with the goal to motivate more companies to commit to some basic sustainability practices.

As a Small Island Developing State, Aruba is highly susceptible to rising sea levels caused by the phenomenon known as Global Warming. In recognition of this year's Earth Day, AHATA's Environmental Committee has composed a Best Practices Guide. The document emphasizes the importance of integrating basic practices for environmental protection and a sustainable community. The guide offers several basic recommendations on energy conservation, reduction of water consumption, waste management, community involvement and respect for nature, which can be introduced by any size company.

The AHATA Environmental Committee was created by Aruba's sustainability pioneer,



Ewald Biemans, approximately twenty years ago. The committee consists of volunteers from member companies, public sector, and foundations. Their mission is to build as much interest as possible in the 3 R's: Reduce, Reuse and Recycle, in the business sector, government, and the public in general. A special thanks to the committee president Vanessa Rasmussen and Bucuti & Tara Beach Resort's Sustainability Manager, Nathaly Stanley, for spearheading the production of this Best Practices guide.

AHATA hopes members take the initiative to become environmental stewards in the community and at the very least commit to basic standards to collectively combat the imminent threat of climate change. □

Aruba to me.....



ORANJESTAD — You are back and we would like to portrait you! By inviting you to send us your favorite vacation picture while enjoying our Happy Island.

Complete the sentence: Aruba to me is Send your picture with that text (including your name and where you are from) to: news@arubatoday.com

and we will publish your vacation memory. Isn't that a special way to keep your best moments alive? Please do note: By submitting photos, text or any other materials, you give permission to The Aruba Today Newspaper, Caribbean Speed Printers and any of its affiliated companies to use said materials, as well as names, likeness, etc. for promotional purposes without compensation. Last but not least: check out our website, Instagram and Facebook page! Thank you for supporting our free newspaper, we strive to make you a happy reader every day again. For today we received an amazing picture from a happy visitor, **Stacey Rusell** from Ohio. She wrote: Aruba to me is "heaven on earth." □

'The Coffee Trade in Aruba' part of the collection of International Coffee Organization



ORANJESTAD — Benjamin Romero is the author of the book 'The Coffee Trade in Aruba'. The book was launched some time ago and just recently the great news was received that the International Coffee Organization (ICO) in London, UK, has officially added the book to their collection.

ICO director Jose Sette shared with Romero that his book gives him insight of the increasing coffee export from Aruba in the 80-ies of last century. The author is honored to have his book included in the organizations collection and open to visitors of the ICO office in London.

The fascinating story that tells how Aruba in the decade of the 60-s and 70-s became one of the main coffee exporters in the world without having plantations of coffee, and without producing a grain of this product.

Although the book is an original translation of his version in Papiamentu, in this edition in English, the author includes some new information about the current situation of this business in Aruba, also accompanied by new photographs and tables. A little bit about the story of the Coffee business

between Guajira and Aruba

This area of the Caribbean Sea where this place is located known as "El Horno", is where the Guajiro businessman Jorge Romero Arteaga used to send coffee to Aruba. They use these small boats known as piraguas. This place close to the city of Riohacha was a heritage of the ancestors Romero, who accompanied General Jose Prudencio Padilla in the battle that took place at the Maracaibo Lake against Spain. As a gift, since they helped them win the battle, they were given this piece of land in the area of Camarones, where General Padilla was born.

For more information please consult the Facebook page E Negoshi di Koffie na Aruba y E Caya di Monche. □



How struggling households can get federal rental assistance

By **SARAH SKIDMORE SELL**
AP Personal Finance Writer

An estimated 8.8 million Americans are behind on their rent, according to the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau. While relief efforts have staved off some of the housing crisis, rent is still going to come due.

The federal government has approved two rounds of rental assistance, worth more than \$46 billion total, that is slowly making its way to renters.

Additionally, the federal eviction moratorium has been extended to the end of June. But avoiding eviction does not erase any rent owed. Estimates vary, but the Urban Institute said renters owe anywhere from \$13.2 billion to \$52.6 billion in back rent.

If you are struggling, here is what you should know about how to access this help:

WHAT'S AVAILABLE

Congress passed two different rental relief packages. The first, approved in December, provided \$25 billion for rental relief. The second, approved in March, provides more than \$21 billion.



In this Jan. 13, 2021 file photo, tenants' rights advocates demonstrate outside the Edward W. Brooke Courthouse in Boston.

Associated Press

In general the aid can help pay for back rent, next month's rent and some utility bills. Renters can get a year or more's help in getting caught up on back rent.

This is in addition to other programs out there on a local basis that may provide different forms of assistance. There has been

some difficulty accessing certain programs but housing experts are hoping this latest round of federal relief specific to rental assistance will help more people.

WHO QUALIFIES

There is some flexibility for states to adapt the program, but in general, the federal relief money is available to those who earn 80%

or less of the area median income in their area and have experienced some sort of COVID-related hardship. Preference is given to those with 50% or less of median income for their area. The application can be made by the household in need or the landlord on behalf of the household. Usually the money will be paid

directly to landlords and utility service providers.

However, some landlords may not want to participate because it requires a certain amount of paperwork and some concessions, such as potentially agreeing not to raise the rent or evict the tenant for a period of time.

If a landlord does not wish to participate, funds may be paid directly to the eligible household.

WHERE TO GO

Renters who need help should reach out to their local housing authority to find out if they qualify for federal relief as well as any local aid.

The federal rent relief money is sent to states, U.S. territories, local governments and tribes to administer through programs in their area. However, it took some time for the money to make its way to these organizations.

The National Low Income Housing Coalition President and CEO Diane Yentel said the money from the first round has been distributed and about 60% of communities have programs open, which increases daily. □

Dutch Supreme Court adviser: Reject Russia's Yukos appeal

By **MIKE CORDER**
THE HAGUE, Netherlands
(AP) — A key legal adviser to the Dutch Supreme Court on Friday recommended dismissing Russia's appeal against the reinstatement of a \$50 billion compensation award to former shareholders of the Yukos oil company.

The Advocate General's advisory opinion is an independent recommendation to Supreme Court judges who are deliberating on Russia's appeal; the judges do not have to follow the advice. No date has been set for the court to issue its final decision.

The advice is the latest development in a long-running legal battle between Moscow and former Yukos shareholders united in a company called GML, which launched arbitra-

tion proceedings against Russia in 2005.

Nearly a decade later, the arbitration panel ordered Russia to pay shareholders \$50 billion in compensation. A Dutch court — ruling in the case because the arbitration happened in the Netherlands — overturned the order in 2016. It said the arbitration panel did not have jurisdiction because the case was based on an energy treaty that Russia had signed but not ratified.

Later that year, an appeals court in The Hague overturned the lower court's decision and reinstated the compensation order. Moscow then launched its appeal to the Supreme Court.

GML chief executive Tim Osborne welcomed Friday's advisory opinion.

"We are confident that the Supreme Court of The Netherlands will likewise uphold the Court of Appeal's ruling," he said in a statement.

The arbitration panel concluded in 2014 that Moscow seized control of Yukos in 2003 by financially crippling the company with huge tax claims. The move was seen as an attempt to silence Yukos CEO Mikhail Khodorkovsky, a vocal critic of President Vladimir Putin.

The arbitration ruling said that Russia was not acting in good faith when it levied the massive claims against Yukos, even though some of the company's tax arrangements might have been questionable.

The state launched "a full assault on Yukos and its beneficial owners in order



In this Tuesday, July 24, 2018 file photo, Russian opposition figure Mikhail Khodorkovsky, the former owner of the Yukos Oil Company, poses for a photograph after being interviewed by The Associated Press in London.

Associated Press

to bankrupt Yukos and appropriate its assets while, at the same time, removing Mr. Khodorkovsky from the political arena," the arbitrators said. Khodorkovsky was ar-

rested at gunpoint in 2003 and spent more than a decade in prison as Yukos' main assets were sold to a state-owned company. Yukos ultimately went bankrupt. □

SpaceX launches 3rd crew with recycled rocket and capsule

By **MARCIA DUNN**

AP Aerospace Writer

CAPE CANAVERAL, Fla. (AP)

— SpaceX launched four astronauts into orbit Friday using a recycled rocket and capsule, the third crew flight in less than a year for Elon Musk's rapidly expanding company.

The astronauts from the U.S., Japan and France should reach the International Space Station early Saturday morning, following a 23-hour ride in the same Dragon capsule used by SpaceX's debut crew last May. They'll spend six months at the orbiting lab. It was the first time SpaceX reused a capsule and rocket to launch astronauts for NASA, after years of proving the capability on station supply runs. The rocket was used last November on the company's second astronaut flight.

Embracing the trend, spacecraft commander Shane Kimbrough and his crew weeks ago wrote their initials in the rocket's soot, hoping to start a tradition.

"If you have rapid and complete reusability, then that is the gateway to the heavens. That's what we're trying to get done, and the support of NASA makes a huge difference," Musk said after the launch.

Just a week ago, NASA awarded SpaceX a nearly \$3 billion contract to provide the lunar lander that will deliver astronauts to the surface of the moon — Musk's Starship, intended to be fully reusable to attain his ultimate prize of carrying astronauts to Mars and building a city there.

Flying in a recycled capsule Friday provided a bit of déjà vu for NASA astronaut Megan McArthur. She launched in the same seat in the same capsule as her husband, Bob Behnken, did during SpaceX's first crew flight. This time, it was Behnken and their 7-year-old son waving goodbye. McArthur blew kisses and offered virtual hugs.

Also flying SpaceX on Friday: Japan's Akihiko Hoshide and France's Thomas Pesquet, the first European to launch in a



A SpaceX Falcon 9 rocket with the Crew Dragon space capsule lifts off from pad 39A at the Kennedy Space Center in Cape Canaveral, Fla., Friday, April 23, 2021.

commercial crew capsule. It was a stunning scene: The launch plume glowed against the dark sky, reflecting the sunlight at high altitude.

Despite the early hour, spectators lined surrounding roads to watch the Falcon take flight an hour before sunrise. Liftoff was delayed a day to take advantage of better weather along the East Coast in case of a launch abort and emergency splashdown.

"You're seeing a piece of history happening here," said Lance Bryan, visiting from Burnsville, Minnesota. "It's, in this case, good history versus some other things that can happen that have been in our backyard practically."

Hours after liftoff, SpaceX was notified of a piece of space junk that might come dangerously close to the capsule. So flight controllers ordered the astronauts to put on their spacesuits and lower their

visors just in case. There was no danger, and the unidentified debris turned out to be farther than initially thought.

A masked Musk met briefly with the astronauts at NASA's Kennedy Space Center before they boarded white gull-winged Teslas from his electric car company.

The astronauts' spouses and children huddled around the cars for one last "love you" before the caravan pulled away and headed to the pad in the predawn darkness.

"From now on, I'll see you on a screen!" tweeted Pesquet's partner, Anne Mottet.

Visibly weary, Musk later said he doesn't sleep the night before a crew launch and this one was no exception.

"It gets a little bit easier, but still pretty intense, I have to say," said Musk, who started his space company in 2002. NASA limited the number of

launch guests because of COVID-19, but passengers for SpaceX's first privately purchased flight made the cut. Tech billionaire Jared Isaacman, who's bought a three-day flight, watched the Falcon soar with the three people who will accompany him. Their capsule is still at the space station and due back on Earth with four astronauts next Wednesday. It will be refurbished in time for a September liftoff. Another crew flight for NASA will follow in October.

For Friday's automated flight, SpaceX replaced some valves and thermal shielding, and installed new parachutes on the capsule, named Endeavour after NASA's retired space shuttle. Otherwise, the spacecraft is the same vehicle that flew before.

"We're thrilled to have a crew on board Endeavour once again," SpaceX Launch Control radioed just before liftoff.

All four astronauts clasped hands as Kimbrough noted it was the first time in more than 20 years that U.S., European and Japanese astronauts had launched together.

The first-stage booster touched down on an ocean platform nine minutes after liftoff.

SpaceX picked up the station slack for NASA after the space agency's shuttles retired in 2011, starting with supply runs the following year. The big draw was last year's return of astronaut launches to Florida, after years of relying on Russia for rides.

"It's awesome to have this regular cadence again," said Kennedy's director Robert Cabana, a former shuttle commander.

Boeing, NASA's other contracted crew transporter, isn't expected to start launching NASA astronauts until early next year. First, it needs to repeat a test flight of an empty Starliner capsule, possibly in late summer, to make up for its software-plagued debut in December 2019.

Last Friday, SpaceX beat out two other companies, including Jeff Bezos' Blue Origin, to land astronauts on the moon for NASA in three or more years. They'll descend to the lunar surface in Starship, the shiny, bullet-shaped rocketship that Musk is testing in the skies over southeast Texas, near the Mexican border.

Musk said Starship should be ready to carry people in a couple years, although he expects to smash more of them before getting there. The 2024 deadline for putting astronauts on the moon, which was set by the Trump administration, is doable, he added.

"It's a great time to be here, and we're very excited," said the European Space Agency's Frank De Winne, an astronaut turned manager. The space station eventually will come to an end, he noted, but the partnership will continue amid hopes of "European astronauts one day walking on the surface of the moon." □

Associated Press

NASA's Mars helicopter soars higher, longer on 2nd flight

CAPE CANAVERAL, Fla. (AP) — NASA's little Mars helicopter aced its second test flight Thursday, soaring even higher and longer than before. The 4-pound (1.8-kilogram) chopper, named Ingenuity, hovered longer and also flew side to side this time, according to NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratory in California. It achieved the intended altitude of 16 feet (5 meters) and even accelerated sideways 7 feet (2 meters). This hop lasted 52 seconds, 13 seconds longer than the first one. "Go big or go home!" JPL tweeted in announcing the Earth Day news.

The success came just three days after Ingenuity made the first powered flight by an aircraft on another planet. The helicopter carried a bit of wing fabric from the Wright Flyer that made similar history at Kitty Hawk, North Carolina, in 1903. Flight controllers had to wait four hours before learning Thursday's outcome. Like it did during Monday's 10-foot-high (3-meter-high) hop, the helicopter sent back a black and white photo showing its shadow against the dusty, rock-strewn surface now known as Wright Brothers Field. "It sounds simple, but there

are many unknowns regarding how to fly a helicopter on Mars," Ingenuity's chief pilot, Havard Grip, said from JPL in a statement. "That's why we're here — to make these unknowns known." One of the challenges is the planet's extremely thin atmosphere — 1% that of Earth's. NASA plans up to three more test flights in the next 1 1/2 weeks, venturing higher each time with more complicated acrobatics. □

Conceptis Sudoku

By Dave Green

	2			1			6	
9		3		2				7
			3				5	
						3		
5	7						1	2
		6						
	8				6			
2				7		6		1
	1			9			8	

Difficulty Level ★★★★★

4/24

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GOLD Season

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GV \$6k OV \$7k
3BEDROOM \$13k

Marriott Aruba Ocean Club

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Rare Raymond Chandler essay includes writing, office tips

By **HILLEL ITALIE**

NEW YORK (AP) — Philip Marlowe, the most self-reliant of fictional detectives, had no boss and no one to boss around. His creator, Raymond Chandler, needed some help.

"Advice to a Secretary," a rarely seen essay published this week in the spring issue of the literary quarterly The Strand Magazine, is a wry set of instructions for his assistant in the 1950s, Juanita Messick. For Chandler, who had little family beyond his wife and few close friends, work was personal. His tone with Messick varied from indulgent employer to hapless spouse.

"Assert your personal rights at all times. You are a human being. You will not always feel well. You will be tired and want to lie down. Say so. Do it. You will get nervous; you will want to go out for a while. Say so, and do it. If you get to work late, don't apologize. Just give a simple explanation of why, even if it is a silly explanation. You may have had a flat tire. You may have overslept. You may have been drunk. We are both just people."



This 1946 file photo shows mystery novelist and screenwriter Raymond Chandler.

Associated Press

More of Chandler's observations:

"I am only exacting in the sense that I want things right. I am not exacting in the sense that I expect human beings to subordinate their own lives to my whims. If you should ever feel that

I am acting that way, for God's sake tell me so."

"I must have order and organization from you, because I lack it myself." The essay was discovered, like a missing clue, in a shoebox at the University of Oxford's Bodleian library.

Strand managing editor Andrew Gulli, who has published obscure works by Chandler ("Notes To An Employer"), William Faulkner, John Steinbeck and many others, was anxious to show Chandler in a more personal and light-hearted way.

"The reason for publishing this work is that often writers who have written works that have very dark themes are among the most friendly and benign people around," he said. "This work shows a softer side to an author who has been associated with a bleak worldview."

Chandler was open minded enough when it came to Messick's whereabouts but particular about her stenography. He once sent her a brief memo dedicated entirely to the misuse of present participles. In "Advice To a Secretary," he points out that Messick transcribed a word incorrectly, "accept" instead of "except."

"If you do not fully understand a sentence, or a word, or a punctuation mark, say so and demand an explanation," Chandler tells her. "If the explanation you get does not clarify things for you, demand another explanation. Do not be satisfied with anything less than you want. It is never stupid to ask questions. It is only stupid to guess at the answers and take a chance on being wrong."

Gal Gadot spotlights women's stories in new docuseries



Gal Gadot arrives at the Vanity Fair Oscar Party on Sunday, Feb. 9, 2020, in Beverly Hills, Calif.

Associated Press

By **JOHN CARUCCI**

Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — Gal Gadot is using her Hollywood stardom to spotlight remarkable women from around the world. The "Wonder Woman" ac-

tor is host and executive producer of a new documentary series that follows six women who made a positive impact on their communities despite dealing with poverty, violence, discrimination and natural disasters.

The 35-year-old says "National Geographic Presents IMPACT with Gal Gadot" grew from her quest to "do something good with my fame and my social media" after the success of 2017's "Wonder Woman."

She and her husband Yaron Varsano, who is also an executive producer on the series, watched a short documentary from music video director Ryan Pallotta about a dancer from the favelas in Brazil.

"We completely fell in love with the story, and we decided that we're going to

build a concept around the story," Gadot said.

The first episode follows a young Black figure skating coach in Detroit who has dedicated her life to coaching young girls of color to empower them.

"She's not only she's empowering them, but she's giving them a skill ... that is familiar or familiar with white people doing it, which is ice skating," Gadot said.

Another episode tells the story of Kayla, who helps create a safe community for homeless transgender women of color in Memphis, Tennessee, by building homes.

The series debuts April 26, a day after the Academy Awards. Gadot said she's encouraged by the inclusion at this year's ceremony: "Nomadland" director

Chloé Zhao and "Promising Young Woman" director Emerald Fennell became only the sixth and seventh women ever to be nominated for best director.

"Women that are used to be only in front of the camera are now going to the other side of the camera and developing stories that they're passionate about and that they care about and that now it's becoming a norm, almost. You know, you see it with the Oscars," she said.

"There's a great change. But at the same time, I got to say that the change can only happen when we include the men. It's never like you can just empower the women and not educate the men."

She said that's what her DC cinematic universe superhero was able to accom-

plish for a new generation. "The girls can go and be inspired by the girl and imagine themselves doing these amazing things as girls. But also, it gives them a role model for boys to admire as well and to understand that women can be strong and great and just like men," she said. "So, for me, it's educating both women and men in order to reach this place that we always talk about gender and equality and all of that. We have to do this together."

7	2	5	9	1	4	8	6	3
9	6	3	8	2	5	1	4	7
8	4	1	3	6	7	2	5	9
4	9	2	5	8	1	3	7	6
5	7	8	6	3	9	4	1	2
1	3	6	7	4	2	5	9	8
3	8	7	1	5	6	9	2	4
2	5	9	4	7	8	6	3	1
6	1	4	2	9	3	7	8	5

Difficulty Level ★★★★★

4/24

Capitals beat Isles 1-0 in SO to reclaim sole East lead

UNIONDALE, N.Y. (AP) — Evgeny Kuznetsov scored the deciding goal in a shootout, giving the Washington Capitals a 1-0 win over the New York Islanders on Thursday night to reclaim sole possession of first place in the East Division.

Ilya Samsonov stopped 26 shots through overtime for his second shutout of the season and third of his career. Washington won for the seventh time in 11 games.

Semyon Varlamov, who had a 29-save shutout in the teams' last meeting on April 6, finished with 28 saves through overtime in this one. However, he gave up two goals on three attempts in the shootout.

The Islanders fell one point behind the Capitals, tied for second place with Pittsburgh — which beat New Jersey 5-1. Boston is another three points back in fourth. After Anthony Beauvillier beat Samsonov with a backhand in the second round of the tiebreaker, Nicklas Backstrom scored off the crossbar and in to tie it. Brock Nelson misfired on the Islanders' attempt in the third round before Kuznetsov beat Varlamov on the stickside to give the Capitals the win.

RED WINGS 7, STARS 3

DETROIT (AP) — Jakub Vrana scored four goals in a game for the first time to help Detroit rout Dallas and



Washington Capitals center Evgeny Kuznetsov, (92) and teammates congratulate goaltender Ilya Samsonov (30) after the Capitals defeated the New York Islanders 1-0 in a shootout in an NHL hockey game Thursday, April 22, 2021, in Uniondale, N.Y. Kuznetsov scored in the shootout.

Associated Press

match its victory total from last season.

Detroit picked up its 17th victory in its 49th game, a year after winning 17 of 71 games in the previous pandemic-shortened season. The teams will play a fourth straight game Saturday night.

Sam Gagner, Luke Glendening and Richard Panik also scored, and Thomas Greiss made 43 saves. Radek Faksa, Joe Pavelski and Denis Gurianov scored for Dallas.

PENGUINS 5, DEVILS 1

PITTSBURGH (AP) — Sidney Crosby and Bryan Rust

each scored their 19th goals of the season and Pittsburgh beat Devils.

Kasper Kapanen returned to Pittsburgh's lineup after missing 13 games with a left foot injury and had a goal and an assist. Teddy Blueger scored a short-handed goal, and Cody Ceci also scored for the Penguins.

The teams also met Tuesday, when Pittsburgh became the first team in NHL history to win despite allowing six goals in the third period during a 7-6 victory.

Tristan Jarry, who allowed those six goals on 11 third-

period shots Tuesday, made 30 saves for the Penguins. Matt Tennyson scored for New Jersey.

The teams will complete the three-game set Saturday in Pittsburgh.

MAPLE LEAFS 5, JETS 3

WINNIPEG, Manitoba (AP) — Mitch Marner had two goals and an assist, Auston Matthews scored his NHL-leading 34th goal and Toronto beat Winnipeg.

Wayne Simmonds and Jason Spezza also scored and Jack Campbell made 34 saves to help the North Division-leading Maple Leafs move six points ahead of

Winnipeg.

Mark Scheifele, Andrew Copp and Kyle Connor scored for the Jets.

The teams will complete the two-game series Saturday night in Winnipeg.

AVALANCHE 4, BLUES 2

ST. LOUIS (AP) — Andre Burakovsky scored twice, Brandon Saad and Pierre-Edouard Bellemare and Colorado beat St. Louis to clinch a playoff spot.

Colorado improved to 18-1-2 in its last 21 games. The Avalanche are 8-1-0 in April after finishing a league-best 12-2-3 in March, setting franchise records for wins and points in a month. The Avalanche are 5-1-0 against the Blues this season.

The Avalanche returned to the ice for the first time since April 14, when they beat the Blues 4-3. They had three games postponed due to COVID-19 protocols.

Colorado goalie Devan Dubnyk made 23 saves.

Jaden Schwartz scored twice for St. Louis.

LIGHTNING 3, BLUE JACKETS 1

TAMPA, Fla. (AP) — Ondrej Palat scored the tiebreaking goal in the third period and Curtis McElhinney stopped 24 shots, leading Tampa Bay past Columbus. Blake Coleman had two goals, including an empty-netter with 25 seconds left. □

Nadal beats Norrie in 2 sets to move into Barcelona semis

BARCELONA, Spain (AP) — Rafael Nadal brushed aside Cameron Norrie 6-1, 6-4 to ease into the semifinals of the Barcelona Open on Friday and moved closer to a record-extending 12th title at the event.

After Nadal breezed through the first set, Britain's Norrie won back a break in the second. Nadal, however, took the advantage right back and closed it out when he converted on a second match point by smashing a forehand just inside the line.

"I had a good first set, dominating with my drive and moving the ball around," Nadal said. "In the second set I let up a bit and I need to make sure that doesn't happen tomorrow."

The top-seeded Nadal needed three sets to get past Kei Nishikori and Ilya Ivashka in the first two rounds in Barcelona. Nadal is looking to rebound from a quarterfinal exit at Monte Carlo last week.

Nadal will next face countryman Pablo Carreno after he won a tightly contested quarterfinal with

Diego Schwartzman 6-4, 3-6, 7-5.

Schwartzman was serving to win the match when Carreno rallied and won three straight games to close it out.

Second-seeded Stefanos Tsitsipas beat Felix Auger-Aliassime 6-3, 6-3 for the Greek's eighth straight-set victory in a row including his title run last week at Monte Carlo.

Tsitsipas will next face Jan-nik Sinner after he defeated Andrey Rublev 6-4, 6-7 (4), 6-4.

The Barcelona Open was not held last year be-



Rafael Nadal of Spain celebrates after defeating Cameron Norrie of Britain 6-1, 6-4 during a quarterfinal Godo tennis tournament in Barcelona, Spain, Friday, April 23, 2021.

Associated Press

cause of the coronavirus pandemic. □

Dodgers have chance for baseball greatness

By **PAUL NEWBERRY**
AP Sports Columnist

It's always mesmerizing to watch greatness in real time.

A young Mike Tyson. An ageless Tom Brady. The Boston Celtics of the 1960s. The New York Yankees of, well, several different eras. Which brings us to the 2021 Los Angeles Dodgers.

This group could become the most exceptional team in baseball history.

The defining answer is still six months away, of course. You can't claim the ultimate title without a championship attached to your resume.

But, with the baseball season less than a month old, all signs point to the Dodgers making a serious run at being included in a very elite club.

Maybe even the lead member.

Their starting pitching is off the charts. Their lineup is stacked from top to bottom. Their player development is the best in the game. And, for good measure, they're sitting on an apparently limitless pile of money to plug any leaks that may arise during the course of the 162-game grind.

"We have a chance to do something really special," manager Dave Roberts said just before the start of the season. "When you look at the talent, potential, it could be as good as any team that the Dodgers have ever fielded."

Comparing teams from different decades is a precarious exercise, at best, but Los Angeles sure seems to match up well with some of baseball's most iconic teams.

"The pedigree is there, the talent is there," Roberts added. "There's no telling how good this club can be."



Los Angeles Dodgers starting pitcher Clayton Kershaw works against a San Diego Padres batter during the first inning of a baseball game Saturday, April 17, 2021, in San Diego.

Associated Press

For starters, we're not going to consider any team prior to 1947, since a large, very talented segment of the population was barred from playing in the big leagues.

That rules out the 1906 Chicago Cubs, who still hold the mark for best winning percentage (.763) from a season in which they claimed 116 victories and lost only 36 times. Besides, there's a very glaring mark against that squad: a shocking defeat in the World Series to a team known as the "Hitless Wonders," the crosstown rival White Sox.

With some regret, we're also removing the 1927 Yankees — the famed Murderers' Row squad of Babe Ruth and Lou Gehrig — from the conversation. Sure, they won the American League title by a staggering 19

games and swept the Pittsburgh Pirates in the World Series, but who knows how they would have fared in a world where the Hank Aarons and Willie Mayses of their era were allowed to suit up?

So, with those parameters in mind, let's see how the Dodgers might stack up against the best of the best since Jackie Robinson broke the color barrier.

—1954 Cleveland Indians. This team won 111 games in a 154-game season and still holds the AL record for highest winning percentage (.721). The starting rotation featured three future Hall of Famers — Early Wynn, Bob Lemon and a waning Bob Feller — but the Dodgers can give them a run for their money with a group that includes reigning NL Cy Young Award winner Trevor Bauer, three-

time Cy Young recipient Clayton Kershaw and the dynamic potential of Julio Urias, Walker Buehler and Dustin May. The Los Angeles lineup also looks more dangerous than a Cleveland group that had only one player with more than 24 homers (Larry Doby) and just two players who reached 100 RBIs (Doby and Al Rosen). Also, let's not forget that the Indians were swept in the World Series by the New York Giants, who won 14 fewer games during the regular season. Advantage: 2021 Dodgers.

—1976 Cincinnati Reds. The Big Red Machine won the NL East by 10 games and swept through the two-round postseason without a single loss. Cincinnati had four future Hall of Famers in their dynamic lineup (Pete Rose, Joe Morgan, Johnny Bench and Tony Perez), not to mention perhaps the most feared hitter of the late 1970s, George Foster. The Dodgers have plenty of pop with Cody Bellinger, Mookie Betts, Max Muncy, Corey Seager and Justin Turner, but maybe aren't quite at the level of that Reds juggernaut. Then

again, the L.A. pitching staff — especially the starters — stands far above a steady but unspectacular Cincinnati rotation led by Gary Nolan and Pat Zachry. Advantage: 2021 Dodgers.

—2001 Seattle Mariners. This team matched the Cubs' record with 116 wins (albeit, while playing 10 more games) but feels like a complete blip on the radar. The Mariners had posted a losing record just two seasons earlier, and they haven't made the playoffs in the two decades since that remarkable season. Most telling, they barely slipped by Cleveland in the Division Series (losing one game 17-2!) and went down meekly to the Yankees in the AL Championship Series, four games to one. The Dodgers have certainly left a longer-lasting mark, riding a streak of eight straight NL West titles that includes three trips to the World Series, culminating with their first championship in 32 years during the pandemic-shortened 2020 season. Big advantage: 2021 Dodgers.

—1998 New York Yankees. This might be the only modern-era team that can stand up to these Dodgers. In the midst of winning four World Series titles in five seasons, the Yankees went 114-48 during the regular season and 11-2 in the postseason for a record 125 victories overall. All nine members of the starting lineup reached double-figure homers, and the bullpen featured the greatest closer of them all, Mariano Rivera, who we'd take over Dodgers finisher Kenley Jansen (and anyone else, for that matter). But New York's rotation, led by 20-game winner David Cone, Andy Pettitte and David Wells, doesn't look quite as imposing as the Dodgers' quintet. Advantage: Toss-up.

Again, it's way too soon to issue a final grade for the Dodgers, who were playing just their 20th game Friday night. But it sure will be fun to watch them chase greatness. □

